

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A kit of parts, said kit of parts comprising:

at least one U-channel comprising a planar baseplate defining upper and lower broad surfaces, and having a predetermined length in a length direction, a width between first and second ~~sides~~ side edges extending parallel to said length direction, said predetermined length being no greater than the distance between a bulkhead and a mission module between which said baseplate will be installed, said U-channel further comprising first and second planar mutually parallel walls, each having said predetermined length in said length direction and a thickness, said first wall being attached to said first side edge of said baseplate with said length direction of said first wall parallel with said length direction of said baseplate, said first wall extending orthogonally above said upper ~~side~~ surface of said baseplate, said second wall being attached to said second side edge of said baseplate with said length direction of said second wall parallel with said length direction of said baseplate, said second wall extending orthogonally above said upper ~~side~~ surface of said baseplate, said first and second walls together with said baseplate defining a generally U-shaped channel defining a length in a direction parallel with said length direction, and also defining a channel width, said baseplate further comprising at least a first slot in said upper surface of said baseplate, said first slot having a

length extending parallel with said length direction, said first slot having at least a first predetermined width dimension;

a divider comprising a generally planar rectangular element defining a length dimension equal to said predetermined length dimension, a width dimension approximately equal to the width dimension of said first and second walls and a first thickness along at least a selected portion of the edges thereof which is no greater than said first predetermined width of said slot; and

a generally planar rectangular cover, said cover having a length dimension equal to said predetermined length, and a width dimension ~~approximately equal to~~ no greater than the sum of said channel width and said thicknesses of said first and second walls.

2. (Currently Amended) A kit of parts according to claim 1, wherein said baseplate further comprises at least a second slot in said upper surface of said baseplate, said second slot extending parallel with said length direction and with said first slot, said second slot having at least said first predetermined width dimension, said cover of said kit of parts defining a cover slot extending in said length direction, said cover slot having a second predetermined width dimension.

3. (Currently Amended) A kit of parts according to claim 2, further comprising a second divider comprising a generally planar rectangular element defining a length dimension equal to said predetermined length dimension, a width dimension approximately equal to said width dimension of said first and second walls, ~~and~~ a first thickness along

at least a selected portion of the edges thereof which equals said first predetermined width of said slot, and a second thickness along another selected portion of said edges of said divider, said second thickness being equal to said second predetermined width dimension.

4. (Currently Amended) A kit of parts according to claim 1, wherein said first divider comprises a monolithic flange adjacent to said selected portion of said edge thereof, and spaced away from said edge thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) A kit of parts according to claim 1, wherein:

said first slot of said baseplate comprises a first portion having said predetermined width, said first slot first portion being adjacent to said upper surface of said baseplate and remote from said lower surface of said baseplate and also comprises a second slot portion having a second width greater than said width, said second portion of said first slot being continuous with said first slot portion; and

said divider ~~has~~ includes a region having a second thickness, greater than said first thickness adjacent said selected portion of said edge edges, and has a said region having said first thickness at a location adjacent said region having said second thickness and more remote from said selected ~~edge~~ portion of said edges of said divider.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting utilities ~~to~~ from a bulkhead to a mission module mounted on a deck at a distance from a bulkhead, said method

comprising the steps of:

procuring a kit of parts, said kit of parts comprising:

at least one U-channel comprising a planar baseplate defining upper and lower broad surfaces, and having a predetermined length in a length direction, a width between first and second ~~sides~~ side edges extending parallel to said length direction, said predetermined length being no greater than the distance between a bulkhead and a mission module between which said baseplate will be installed, said U-channel further comprising first and second planar mutually parallel walls, each having said predetermined length in said length direction and a thickness, said first wall being attached to said first side edge of said baseplate with said length direction of said first wall parallel with said length direction of said baseplate, said first wall extending orthogonally above said upper ~~side~~ surface of said baseplate, said second wall being attached to said second side edge of said baseplate with said length direction of said second wall parallel with said length direction of said baseplate, said second wall extending orthogonally above said upper ~~side~~ surface of said baseplate, said first and second walls together with said baseplate defining a generally U-shaped channel defining a length in a direction parallel with said length direction, and also defining a channel width, said baseplate further comprising at least a first slot in said upper surface of said baseplate, said first slot having a length extending parallel with said length direction, said first slot

having at least a first predetermined width dimension;

a divider comprising a generally planar rectangular element defining a length dimension equal to said predetermined length dimension, a width dimension approximately equal to the width dimension of said first and second walls and a first thickness along at least a selected portion of the edges thereof which is no greater than said first predetermined width of said slot; and

a generally planar rectangular cover, said cover having a length dimension equal to said predetermined length, and a width dimension ~~approximately equal to~~ no greater than the sum of said channel width plus said thicknesses of said side walls;

placing said selected portion of said divider in said first slot;

mounting said baseplate on said deck, with said lower broad surface adjacent said deck, at a location lying between said bulkhead and said mission module, with said length dimension of said baseplate lying parallel to a line connecting said bulkhead to said mission module, to thereby divide said generally U-shaped channel into plural sections;

extending a utility connection through one of said plural sections from a location on said bulkhead to a location on said mission module; and

placing said cover over said generally U-shaped channel.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein said step of placing said selected portion of said

first divider in said first slot is performed after said step of mounting said baseplate on said deck.

8. (New) A kit of parts according to claim 1, wherein:

said cover defines upper and lower surfaces;
and said lower surface of said cover defines at least one elongated second slot having a length extending parallel with said length direction, said second slot having at least said first predetermined width dimension.

9. (New) A kit of parts according to claim 8, wherein said second slot is located on said cover at a location such that it is registered with said slot in said upper surface of said baseplate when said kit of parts is assembled.

10. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein said cover defines upper and lower surfaces; and said kit of parts comprises

at least one elongated second slot in said lower surface of said cover, said second slot having a length extending parallel with said length direction, and being registered with said first slot when said kit of parts is assembled; and

said step of placing said cover includes the step of engaging an edge of said divider in said second slot.

11. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein said step of engaging an edge of said divider in said second slot is performed after said step of placing said selected portion of said divider in said first slot.

12. (New) A kit of parts, said kit of parts comprising:

at least one U-channel

comprising a planar baseplate defining upper and lower broad surfaces, and having a predetermined length in a length direction, a width between first and second side edges extending parallel to said length direction, said predetermined length being no greater than the distance between a bulkhead and a mission module between which said baseplate will be installed,

said U-channel further comprising first and second planar mutually parallel walls, each having said predetermined length in said length direction and a thickness, said first wall being attached to said first side edge of said baseplate with said length direction of said first wall parallel with said length direction of said baseplate, said first wall extending orthogonally above said upper surface of said baseplate, said second wall being attached to said second side edge of said baseplate with said length direction of said second wall parallel with said length direction of said baseplate, said second wall extending orthogonally above said upper surface of said baseplate, said first and second walls together with said baseplate defining a generally U-shaped channel defining a length in a direction parallel with said length direction, and also defining a channel width,

said baseplate further comprising at least a first slot in said upper surface of said baseplate,

said first slot having a length extending parallel with said length direction, said first slot having at least a first predetermined width dimension, said slot also comprising a second portion lying between said upper and lower surfaces of said baseplate, said second portion having a second predetermined width dimension greater than said first predetermined width dimension;

a divider comprising a generally planar rectangular element defining a length dimension equal to said predetermined length dimension, a width dimension approximately equal to the width dimension of said first and second walls and a selected edge, said divider defining a first portion lying parallel with said selected edge and having said first predetermined width dimension, said divider also defining a second portion lying parallel with said first portion and closer to said selected edge than said first portion, said second portion having said second width dimension, said divider further comprising a flange lying adjacent said first portion of said divider and more remote from said selected edge than said first portion of said divider, said flange having a width dimension greater than said first predetermined width dimension; and

a generally planar rectangular cover, said cover having a length dimension equal to said predetermined length, and a width dimension approximately equal to said channel width.